

Happenings H₂O Observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services

The Water Returns

Many recent visitors have noted that the WATER Center looks so "alive" now that the fountains are back on. We think so too!

In late December, Center staff—with the help of many youth volunteers—drained and cleaned the plaza fountains. Although the fountains can run year-round, the threat of winter ice storms and potential power outages, led staff to turn the fountains off last winter.

Senior Wednesdays

First Wednesdays—1:30 PM
Active Adults - No registration needed

- April 2: **Kilimanjaro**, by Dr. Gary Hulett. Hear from a "senior" about his recent travels up Mount Kilimanjaro
- May 7: **Meet the Sunfish Family**, Learn about the diverse sunfish family and which species can be found in Kansas.
- June 4: **Water for the Future**, by Jerry Blain. Sustainability of the resources is important for the entire Wichita area. Come hear about the Aquifer Recovery and Storage Project, a nationally acclaimed and an award-winning project, that is setting a precedent for other municipalities to follow suit.
- July 2: **TBA**
- August 6: **Water is Life and Infrastructure Makes it Happen!**, by Don Kirkland. Don will give an overview of the Utilities and show what is done in the course of a year.

Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

April

- 2nd **District III Advisory Board**
6:30-9:30 PM
- 7th **Wichita Area Paddlers**
6:30-9:00 PM
- 22nd **Arkansas River Coalition**
7:00 PM

May

- 5th **Wichita Area Paddlers**
6:30-9:00 PM
- 7th **District III Advisory Board**
6:30-9:30 PM

June

- 2nd **Wichita Area Paddlers**
6:30-9:00 PM
- 4th **District III Advisory Board**
6:30-9:30 PM

FISH FEEDINGS

Every Monday and Friday
3:00 PM



101 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211

Phone: 316-337-9262
Fax: 316-268-8960
www.wichita.gov

Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays
& Fridays
Closed Holidays

The WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee
is located in
Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset
18-hole disc golf course
Accessible trails
Playground equipment
Picnic areas

**Skateboarding, swimming and fishing
are prohibited**

The WATER Center

Summer Programs

Droplets 0-6 years old

FISH TALES **FREE**

Second Tuesdays of every month
10:00 AM

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

Minnows 6-8 years old

CREEK PEEKIN' **Fee: \$5.00**

Thursday, June 19th, 10-11 AM or
Tuesday, July 15th, 10-11 AM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 10

Strange creatures lurk under the surface of the water. What lives under a rock? A leaf? A log? We'll build a pond scope to peek into the creek. Please wear old clothing and shoes that can get wet.

Water Rangers 9-12 years old

The *Water Rangers* program introduces youth to many aspects of the WATER Center—nature, art, pollution prevention, and community service. All participants in the *Water Rangers* program will receive a nature journal at the first *Water Rangers* program they attend.

SANDBAR SLEUTH **Fee \$5.00**

Thursday, July 24th, 10-11:30 AM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 10

The history of the river can be read in items on a sandbar. We will explore the sandbars adjacent to Herman Hill Park. (This program will be cancelled if the water level is too high.)

NATURE JOURNALING **Fee \$5.00**

Tuesday, July 29th, 10-11 AM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 15

Use your Water Ranger Journal to record the sights, smells, and sounds of nature.

RIVER RESCUERS **Fee \$3.00**

Thursday, July 31st, 10-11 AM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 10

Can you make a difference? We'll look at the river bank and see what we can do to help clean it up.

FILTER IT! **Fee \$5.00**

Friday, August 8th, 10-11 AM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 15

We'll pollute some tap water with soil, oil, and other things—can you build a water filter to clean it up?

May 13

Trout are Made of Trees by April Sayre
Activity: Make a colorful clay leaf print to take home.

June 10

What Makes a Rainbow? By Betty

Schwartz

Activity: Color a rainbow coloring page using the colors from today's story.

July 8

Little Beaver and the Echo by Amy MacDonald

Activity: Make a track print of a critter from today's story.

August 12

Trout, Trout, Trout by April Pulley Sayre

Activity: make a fish print using the Japanese technique called "gyotaku."

STREAM SENSE **Fee: \$5.00**

Tuesday, July 22nd, 2-3 PM or

Thursday, August 7th, 2-3 PM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 15

What do your nose and ears tell you about a stream? Discover the sounds, textures and smells of the creek at the WATER Center. Make a Sensory Journal of your experience. Please wear old clothing and shoes that can get wet.

COLORS OF NATURE **Fee: \$3.00**

Tuesday, June 24th, 10-11 AM or

Thursday, July 10th, 2-3 PM or

Tuesday, August 5th, 10-11 AM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 15

How many colors can you find in the park? Enough to color a picture? We'll collect several items—even mud—to color in a special piece of artwork for you to take home. Please wear old clothing and shoes that can get wet.

Aquatic Interns 13-18 years old

The *Aquatic Intern Program* provides teenagers with real-life experience working with WATER Center Staff. Interns will learn about the care of the museum displays and aquariums, management of the park amenities, and development of publications.

Participants in the *Aquatic Intern Programs* will receive one journal and bag or use throughout the *Aquatic Intern* series of programs.

STREAM ANATOMY **Fee \$10.00**

Thursday, June 12th, 1-4 PM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 6

How does a stream flow? Learn about riffles, runs, and pools. We'll get in the creek and rebuild a waterfall.

DISPLAY IT! **Fee \$10.00**

Thursday, July 3rd, 10 AM-12 PM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 6

Make your own mark on the WATER Center—help build a display or design a bulletin board for all the visitors to see.

AQUARIUM BIOLOGY **Fee \$10.00**

Thursday, August 7th, 10 AM-12 PM

Pre-registration required—Class limit 6

What does it take to keep the WATER Center's aquarium creatures healthy? We will work with the aquariums—including collecting food and feeding the animals.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration Will Close

10 Days Before the Program Date

Participant Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

If Under 18, what age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND

Minnow Programs:

____ June 19	Creek Peekin'	\$ 5
____ June 24	Colors of Nature	\$ 3
____ July 10	Colors of Nature	\$ 3
____ July 15	Creek Peekin'	\$ 5
____ July 22	Stream Sense	\$ 5
____ August 5	Colors of Nature	\$ 3
____ August 7	Stream Sense	\$ 5

Water Ranger Programs:

____ July 24	Sandbar Sleuth	\$ 5
____ July 29	Nature Journaling	\$ 5
____ July 31	River Rescuers	\$ 3
____ August 8	Filter It!	\$ 5

Aquatic Intern Programs:

____ June 12	Stream Anatomy	\$10
____ July 3	Display It!	\$10
____ August 7	Aquarium Biology	\$10

Program Fee Totals _____

Make check payable to the WATER Center.

Mail Registration and Fees to:

PROGRAMS, WATER Center,
101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211